

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of storing data objects in a data warehouse, comprising:
 - 2 receiving a data object;
 - 3 identifying a geographic location to which the data object is related;
 - 4 associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;
 - 5 identifying an industry to which the data object is related;
 - 6 associating a numeric representation with the industry; and
 - 7 indexing the data object in the data warehouse based on a header number, the
 - 8 header number including the numeric representations of the geographic location and the
 - 9 industry.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a geographic location comprises:
 - 2 providing a location template having a plurality of columns, the columns
 - 3 corresponding to nations, states, and cities.

- 1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - 2 searching the data object for a term stored in a column of the location template,
 - 3 the term representing a specific nation, state, or city.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying an industry comprises:
 - 2 providing an industry template having a plurality of columns, the columns
 - 3 corresponding to industry names and industry functions.

- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 searching the data object for a term stored in a column of the industry template,
3 the term representing a specific industry name or industry function.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric representations of the geographic location
2 and the industry are stored in specific slots in a register designated for the header number.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 providing location templates associated with different languages; and
3 providing industry templates associated with different languages.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the header number further includes a unique
2 document number.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the header number further includes a numeric
2 representation of a date on which the data object was received.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 storing the data object in a location of the data warehouse that is associated with
3 the header number.

1 11. A method of retrieving a data object stored in a data warehouse, comprising:
2 receiving a request for the data object that is stored in the data warehouse;
3 parsing the request to identify a geographic location to which the data object is
4 related;
5 associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;
6 parsing the request to identify an industry to which the data object is related;
7 associating a numeric representation with the industry;
8 generating a header number that includes the numeric representations of the
9 geographic location and the industry;
10 searching a header number index of the data warehouse for the header number;
11 identifying the data object based on the header number; and
12 retrieving the data object from the data warehouse.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein parsing the request to identify a geographic location
2 comprises:
3 providing a location template having a plurality of columns, the columns
4 corresponding to nations, states and cities; and
5 searching the request for a term stored in a column of the location template, the
6 term representing a specific nation, state or city.

1 13. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
2 providing location templates associated with different languages; and

3 searching the request by utilizing a location template associated with a specific
4 language identified in the request.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein parsing the request to identify an industry
2 comprises:

3 providing an industry template having a plurality of columns, the columns
4 corresponding to industry names and industry functions; and
5 searching the request for a term stored in a column of the industry template, the
6 term representing a specific industry name or industry function.

1 15. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

2 providing industry templates associated with different languages; and
3 searching the request by utilizing an industry template associated with a specific
4 language identified in the request.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein parsing the request to identify a geographic location
2 or an industry to which the data object is related comprises:

3 searching the request for a first matching term in a first list of terms;
4 associating a first numeric representation with the first matching term; and
5 searching the request for a second matching term in a second list of terms,
6 wherein the searching for the second matching term is limited to a subset of terms, the
7 subset of the second list of terms being associated with the first matching term.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the first list of terms comprises a column
2 corresponding to nations in a location template, and the second list of terms comprises a
3 column corresponding to cities in a location template.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the first list of terms comprises a column
2 corresponding to industry names in an industry template, and the second list of terms
3 comprises a column corresponding to industry functions in an industry template.

1 19. The method of claim 11, wherein the header number further includes a unique
2 document number.

1 20. The method of claim 11, wherein the header number further includes a numeric
2 representation of a date on which the data object was received.

1 21. The method of claim 11, wherein retrieving the data object further comprises:
2 retrieving the data object from a location of the data warehouse that is associated
3 with the header number.

1 22. A computer system comprising:
2 a microprocessor;
3 a storage device coupled to the microprocessor, the storage device adapted to
4 store software routines; and

5 a software routine stored on the storage device to be executed by the
6 microprocessor, wherein the software routine comprises instructions to perform a method
7 of storing data objects in a data warehouse, said method comprising:

8 receiving a data object;

9 identifying a geographic location to which the data object is related;

10 associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;

11 identifying an industry to which the data object is related;

12 associating a numeric representation with the industry; and

13 indexing the data object in the data warehouse based on a header number,

14 the header number including the numeric representations of the geographic

15 location and the industry

1 23. A computer system comprising:

2 a microprocessor;

3 a storage device coupled to the microprocessor, the storage device adapted to
4 store software routines; and

5 a software routine stored on the storage device to be executed by the
6 microprocessor, wherein the software routine comprises instructions to perform a method
7 of retrieving a data object stored in a data warehouse, said method comprising:

8 receiving a request for the data object that is stored in the data warehouse;

9 parsing the request to identify a geographic location to which the data
10 object is related;

11 associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;

12 parsing the request to identify an industry to which the data object is
13 related;
14 associating a numeric representation with the industry;
15 generating a header number that includes the numeric representations of
16 the geographic location and the industry;
17 searching a header number index of the data warehouse for the header
18 number;
19 identifying the data object based on the header number; and
20 retrieving the data object from the data warehouse.

1 24. A storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of
2 instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of storing data objects in a
3 data warehouse, said method comprising:
4 receiving a data object;
5 identifying a geographic location to which the data object is related;
6 associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;
7 identifying an industry to which the data object is related;
8 associating a numeric representation with the industry; and
9 indexing the data object in the data warehouse based on a header number, the
10 header number including the numeric representations of the geographic location and the
11 industry.

1 25. A storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of
2 instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of retrieving a data object
3 stored in a data warehouse, said method comprising:
4 receiving a request for the data object that is stored in the data warehouse;
5 parsing the request to identify a geographic location to which the data object is
6 related;
7 associating a numeric representation with the geographic location;
8 parsing the request to identify an industry to which the data object is related;
9 associating a numeric representation with the industry;
10 generating a header number that includes the numeric representations of the
11 geographic location and the industry;
12 searching a header number index of the data warehouse for the header number;
13 identifying the data object based on the header number; and
14 retrieving the data object from the data warehouse.

1 26. A method of operating an electronic switch, comprising:
2 receiving a plurality of data objects;
3 storing the data objects in a plurality of data comparitors;
4 receiving a first signal indicating that all of the comparitors are busy;
5 receiving an additional data object;
6 providing a holding area for data objects;
7 storing the additional data object in the holding area;
8 receiving a second signal indicating that a comparitor is free; and

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storing the additional data object in the comparator.